

The Ovington Oracle

April, 2013

A happy Easter to everyone.

The equinox passed and we were expecting spring but the old proverb looks to be true ... "Ne'er cast a clout till May be out" !

For an explanation of this and other old phrases, see
www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/till-may-is-out.html

Linda & Tim (Editors)

Diary Dates

All at Village Hall unless otherwise indicated

Mondays @ 10:30am	Coffee morning, until 11:30am
Mondays @ 1:45pm	Bowls (except Easter Monday)
Mondays @ 6:00pm	Junior Choir
3rd April @ 11:00am	Crafters session, until 4:00pm
3rd April @ 7:45pm	Gardening Club
4th April @ 7:00pm	Preparation meeting for Fête
14th April @ 9:30am	Holy Communion (Church)
16th April @ 7:45pm	Ladies Group
15th April @ 7:30pm	Extraordinary PC meeting - footpath
26th April	Annual Ladies Dinner (Broome Hall)

To book the village hall contact Lyndia Lewis 882222

More at: www.ovington-village.org.uk

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Thanks

Rosemary Philpot

I wish to thank everyone who has helped, visited, phoned and sent me get well messages and cards during my recovery from surgery, very much appreciated. Once again, thanks.

Rosemary

Litter Pick

Timothy Birt

A big thank you to those who helped with the spring village litter pick. Despite driving sleet the team spread out in all directions and collected upwards of 20 sacks of litter. At the end of the morning we returned to the village hall to warm fingers and toes where a magnificent spread of sandwiches and cakes awaited, all home-made and provided by villagers.



Ladies Group

Christine Hardy



In March John Hardy gave us an insight into the Shelterbox. This is a Rotary based charity which sends these boxes around the world whenever a disaster occurs. The box contains enough equipment to keep a family of six-plus sheltered for sometimes over a year. It includes a very large tent, ground sheets, bedding, cooker, utensils, tools, water purification etc. members were amazed to see all this come out of one box. John also showed us films of the boxes being delivered, set up by volunteers and used in disaster areas. We all felt this was a very worthwhile charity and a donation was made to this fund.

In April we have a talk and demonstration by Raffique – a company which makes hats and accessories out of raffia. As always all ladies are most welcome. Just come along to the Village Hall on 16th April at 7:45pm. The competition will be something beginning with 'N'. April is also the month we have our Annual Ladies Dinner at Broome Hall on the 26th. If you would like to come, but haven't chosen your menu please contact Christine Hardy on 889920.

Village Lottery

Christine Reilly



Congratulations to the March winners:

First Prize (£10)

Terry Rands

Second Prize (£5)

Mike Murray

I failed to move an email so neglected to report the December 2012 winners, so for the record they were: £20 Chris Lewis, £15 Joyce Woods, £10 Annette Shufflebotham, £5 Lyndia Lewis, £5 Nick Sproston, £5 Ian Shufflebotham.

Tim - Editor

The annual Quiz and Buffet Supper is going to take place on Friday 17th May this year, at 7:30pm in the village hall. Start getting your team (of 4 eggheads, or similar) together and ring Christine on 885848 to book your places, which are limited. Tickets cost £6 each (£24 a team) and include a full buffet supper of cold meats/pies/ veggie options and salads. Naturally, there will be a raffle and all proceeds will go towards the village hall. Hurry, don't miss it!

The Village Fête – Saturday 8th June

Yes, I know you are thinking: 'But that's a long way ahead'. Well, it will soon be with us so we are holding a pre-fête meeting on Thursday 4 April at 7:00pm in the village hall for everyone to come along and pool their ideas on what will make a fabulous village event. If you are able to help on the day, but not attend this meeting, please contact any of the committee with details. Otherwise, we hope to see you there. Volunteers are always needed to help before, during and after the fête. As one of the two major village events of the year, supporting the village hall and the church, it is nice to involve as many folk as possible.

Monday Coffee Morning

PCSO Tonya Winsley is scheduled to call in on the morning of 29th April.

Village Etiquette and General information.

Comments made to Editors

Bonfires

Please consider others, Sunday lunchtime when washing is out is annoying other residents. Check wind conditions and direction and choose an appropriate time.

Dog fouling

There has been an increasing incidence of irresponsible owners not clearing up after their dogs. It is antisocial, causes great annoyance to other residents especially responsible dog owners and is an offence. Just one bad owner can blight an area. To report instances contact:

<http://www.breckland.gov.uk/content/dog-fouling>

Plastic bottle tops

Please save your plastic milk bottle tops for charity and drop them into the Wednesday Country market which is held in the Watton Christian Community centre in the High Street or take them to Wayland House.

Warning: New vehicle break-in

Rod Rumsby

Wednesday, I approached my car from the passenger side to place my computer bag in the front passenger seat. As I reached to open the door I noticed there was a hole right under my door handle. My first thought was, "someone has shot the car !"

I began to think about it and inspect it a little closer and the "light" slowly began to dawn.

I phoned a friend who owns a body shop and asked if he had

any vehicles with damage to the doors that looked like a bullet hole.

"Yes, I see it all the time. Thieves have a punch and place it right under the door handle, knock a hole through, reach in and unlock it, just as if they have a key. No alarms, broken glass, or anything."

I then placed a call to my insurance agent and explained it to him. I was puzzled that they left my GPS and all other belongings.

Here is where it gets scary !

"Oh no, he said, they want the break-in to be so subtle that you don't even realise it. They look at your GPS to see where 'home' is, or check your address from Insurance and Registration documents in your glove box. Now they know what you drive, go to your home, and if your vehicle isn't there they assume you aren't, and break into your home."

He said they will even leave a purse or wallet and only take one or two credit cards. By the time you realize there has been a theft, they may have already had a couple of days or more to use them. They even give you the courtesy of re-locking your doors for you.

Take care ...

Periodically, walk around your car, especially after you park in a shopping centre or other large parking area. If you find a hole report it immediately and consider what might have been taken. Do not put your real home in your GPS, somewhere half a mile away is usually good enough.

Synopsis derived from the unconfirmed minutes of the March PC meeting.

Footpath

Karen Weir has surveyed the village and received 100% support for a footpath, 80% of respondents say they don't walk to Watton because it is unsafe. This adds to our case but we still do not have the support of Highways. A meeting has been arranged with Paul Sellick (Highways) to try and establish why there is a problem. A sum of £4000 has been ring-fenced by the PC for the footpath project.

Matters arising / Residents comments & queries

The status of Norfolk CAB and our local bureau, 'Dereham, Watton & Holt CAB' which is planning improvements to its Watton service.

The tenant of Field adjacent to the allotments wishes to continue with the tenancy.

Pot-holes have been identified and these will be passed to the Highway Rangers for action on their next visit. Migrating ditches and verges are to be investigated once the ground is drier. A request for deer warning signs along the A1075 Saham Hill will be passed on, but based on previous experience doubt it will be accepted.

Planning

The PC had received very little information about the Otterwood Kennels planning situation, but we were pleased to receive a report from Janine who had contacted Breckland Council directly, see adjacent page.

Next Meetings

An extraordinary meeting to finalise the details of an application the County Council regarding the footpath will take place on 14th April – check notice board for details.

The AGM and Annual Parish Meeting is provisionally scheduled for 16th May. We would welcome reports from all the village associations, groups, clubs, etc.

Update regarding Otterwood Kennels:

Janine Fairburn

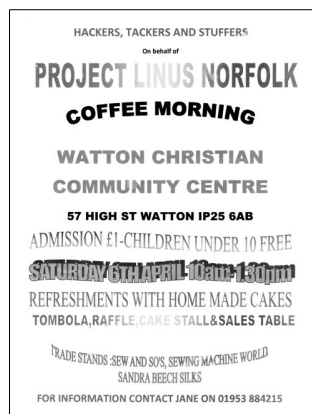
I have had my return call from Breckland today and the situation is that the enforcement notice 2010/0354/CAS) has been served on 5th March 2013 with an effective date of 22nd April 2013 to allow 6 weeks for any appeal. The standard 9 months time-line is then applied to comply which ends up being 22nd January 2014.

The new planning application for 4 pitches has been put in but it's status is 'un-validated' as I understand from Breckland that there is some paperwork still outstanding from the applicant. Should this be submitted as a complete application, the enforcement notice will not be withdrawn but will stay live. Any action by the enforcement team will not take place until January 2014 depending on whether he has complied.

Local Events:

Project Linus

As reported last month a coffee morning in aid of *Project Linus* on Saturday 6 April, 10:00am to 1:30pm



Refreshments with home made cakes. Tombola, Raffle, Cake stall and sales. Also trade stands from Sew and So's, Sewing Machine World and Sandra Beech Silks.

Watton Christian Community Centre,
57 High Street, Watton IP25 6AB.
Admission just £1 (under 10 free)

For more information contact Jane on 01953-884215

Dragonfly Gallery

'A Delight of Dragonflies' – Art with a Dragonfly theme,
Saturday 13th April – Saturday 20th April, Weekdays 10:00 – 4:00pm, Saturdays 10:00 – 1:00pm

More information from Susan Hollingworth on 01953 880205

'Cracker jokes' space filler...

Q: Which animal has to be oiled?

A: a mouse, because it squeaks!

Q. What do you call a boomerang that doesn't come back?

A. A stick.

What a lovely Mothering Sunday Service we had in the Village Hall. We would like to thank Anne Leighton for coming to take our service entwined with such humour and humanity and Sandie for bringing her keyboard enabling us to sing the hymns accompanied. We also thank Jane Lambert for making beautiful posies, which were distributed amongst the congregation and also those in the village not well enough to attend the service, and Christine Reilly for making such a tasty simnel cake.

We are also indebted to Rod Broughall for coming over to Ovington and taking our Holy Communion services this year.

On 14th April we will be holding our usual Holy Communion service at 9:30am, again with Revd Rod.

Rod Rumsby

Church Heating & Lighting

The work to improve the heating and lighting in our Parish Church of St John's is progressing well, with some of the new heaters installed and working. A noticeable difference in temperature was noticed during a visit yesterday, considering the normal freezing working conditions inside the Church, one can quite understand the electricians desire to complete the heating side of the contract as soon as possible.

The work should be completed before the Easter services, and hopefully scarves, gloves and three layers of clothing can be dispensed with for the important events of the Christian calendar over the Easter period.



The March meeting was a talk by Tony Goode on 'Crocus for all Seasons'. This covered the many varieties of crocus in purple, blue and white, in all sizes, which flowered in virtually every month of the year. The majority of these plants had been grown from seed in his Norwich garden and others had been photographed in the wild on his annual holidays. We ended up with a much greater knowledge of crocus in all its forms.

The April meeting will be given by Sue Robinson on 'The Gardens of Gertrude Jekyll' and will be held in the village hall on Wednesday 3 April at 7:45pm. Visitors and new members always welcome! For further details contact Ed on 01953 885848 or Carol on 01760 440719.

Deadline for next issue: 24th April

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A large print version is downloadable from the village web-site.